

Self-Exploratory Essay



The more I learn how to write persuasive essays, the more I appreciate the work of scholars. Constant improvement of writing skills is an inevitable part of a writer's life. During English 2 class, I have undergone through a number of changes and improvements in my writing. To my mind, the grade I deserve is A- or B+ as my writing technique in composing, presenting academic discourse, differentiating literary genres and researching the topic has essentially improved since English 1 class.

Indeed, my understanding of writing as well as entire writing process has developed during this course. It is especially evident from my portfolio. For instance, I have found writing drafts very helpful for better development of my critical analysis. As a result, it has become much easier to me to transform my personal statements into the messages available for understanding by the different target audiences. At the same time, however, I understand that some of my persuasive academic statements need more clarity as some of the words I used need revision as well. Thus, I have found the practice of revising my statements and papers in general, to be very helpful in developing my writing skills. Some parts of my essays were unnecessary such as, for instance, introduction to "Explication and Analysis of Poems by Emily Dickinson" that seemed to belong rather to author's foreword, as you have noticed. Also, one of the conclusions in the body of my "Reflective Cover Letter" was excessive as well. Nevertheless, I understand that mistakes are inevitable part of the whole process of my study; therefore, by making mistakes and working on them I become a more focused writer as well as more attentive reader. As my words

become clearer and more influential, it is the evidence for improvement of and my successes in academic writing.

I has also developed my skills in presenting of academic discourse. I have learnt that for each audience, there are specific tools and methods to be used. Throughout this course, I have enlarged my knowledge about such tools and now can use them more effectively. In addition, the class reading and writing exercises has also greatly influenced the development of my writing. I have tried my skills at critisizing the writing and critical thought of other writers, journalists and scholars. Later, I tried to apply these skills to my own writing, and I think that it was successful. The development of the ability to criticize myself sincerely has become very important for my work, especially, in developing my statements and presenting different points of view. Now, as I sort my thoughts in writing more precisely, the quality and clearness of my essays have become more evident.

I have also developed my researching skills that has also influenced the quality of the papers I write. Critical arguments presented in my portfolio are supported by primary and authoritative secondary sources. To use an appropriate source is much more difficult task than it has seemed to me before. In fact, one have to read a great amount of books or articles in order to find the one that would truly support the argument. For instance, in “Explication and Analysis of Poems by Emily Dickinson,” I have been very capricious in choosing the book to cite. I think that I have made a quite good choice as it served as a good support for the idea I have presented. Also, I have been practicing in documenting sources in certain academic documentation styles. I have found formulation of research questions as well as development of investigation’s plan to be very helpful as well. When I clearly understood the direction of my research, I was automatically able to limit my topic scope as well as clarify a thesis according to genre conventions and reader expectations. For instance,

thesis statement in “Explication and Analysis of Poems by Emily Dickinson” directly reflects the genre of the poem and appeals to the reader, the essentiality of these unpleasant scenes [the loss of a lover compared to death] cannot be underrated in reading this poem [“I like a look of Agony”] because the reader has to feel the pain and the agony behind the words used in to fully appreciate it.”

As one can notice, I have focused on certain theme (unhappy love) and its aspects (pain and agony) in order to narrow my research topic and to present my literary criticism of the poem fully.

Talking about the problems I have noticed in working drafts, I found expanding of them the most difficult. A short draft rather reminds of a plan or an outline as it is much shorter and easier to write. It was much easier to me to present all the most important ideas without deepening into critical analysis, some controversial ideas and more evidences. During my reading process, however, I have changed my mind. Now I view the process of transforming of drafts into the final papers as the way through hardships to the stars. Writing drafts gives a unique opportunity to review, correct and improve the statements of the final paper as well as to take a look at my writing from another perspective.

I believe that the grade I deserve is A- or B+ as my writing technique in composing, presenting academic discourse, differentiating literary genres and researching the topic has improved during the class. My attitude to writing as a reader and as a writer has changed. Now I understand that all the aspects of writing are very important as they essentially influence its quality.